

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

<b>In the Matter of the Revocation</b>	)	
	)	
<b>or Suspension of the Educator's</b>	)	<b>ORDER OF</b>
	)	
<b>Certificate of Kimberly Arnold,</b>	)	<b>SUMMARY SUSPENSION</b>
<b>A/K/A Linda Cheryl Jones,</b>	)	
<b>A/K/A Kimberly Ray Brown,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Certificate 208721</b>	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 9, 2004. The State Department of Education (Department) will send a notice of the permanent revocation of South Carolina educator certificate # 208721 to Kimberly Arnold, issued in the name of Linda Cheryl Jones, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. In the interim, in accordance with S.C. Code Ann § 1-23-370 (c) (2004), the Department requested that the State Board summarily suspend Ms. Arnold's certificate. The Department has reason to believe, due to the nature of the misconduct that led to her arrest, that Ms. Arnold is a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students. This summary suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Ms. Arnold's certificate.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

On July 16, 2001, Kimberly Arnold willingly and knowingly applied for South Carolina certification as a school psychologist, presenting herself as Linda Cheryl Jones, a school psychologist licensed by the State of Tennessee. The South Carolina Division of Teacher Quality issued Ms. Arnold a certificate valid from July 1, 2001 until June 30, 2006, in the name of Linda Cheryl Jones. Ms. Arnold was arrested on October 27, 2004, by Sumter County Sheriff's Office and charged with two counts of forgery, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and fraudulent falsified or altered transcript or diploma. Ms. Arnold has been working as a school psychologist with Sumter County School District Two (District) since July 2002. Ms. Arnold has admitted to law enforcement that she is not Linda C. Jones, that she is not a school psychologist, and that she has only a high school diploma.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct ...Crime against the law of this State or the United States...and...Dishonesty.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). State Board Regulation 43-58 further defines just cause to include: “Obtaining or attempting to obtain such certificate by fraudulent means or through misrepresentation of material facts.” In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-37 (c)(2004). “If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension and revocation of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action.” The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Ms. Arnold may pose a threat to the welfare of students. Accordingly, the State Board hereby summarily suspends certificate # 208721, issued under the name of Linda Cheryl Jones.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 9, 2004